-ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to a method for producing substantially globular lyogels, wherein the constituents which make up the gel are mixed, where upon lyosol is introduced into an agitated medium which does not dissolve in said lyosol in a noticeable manner in order to for said the gel. The present invention also relates to a method for producing substantially globular aerogels, wherein the lyogels produced according to said method are converted into an aerogel. --

In the Claims

Please delete claims 1-12 without prejudice to applicants' right to claim the subject matter thereof, upon entry of the following new claims.

Please enter the following new claims:

forming components are mixed to produce a lyosol, after which the lyosol, in order to form a lyogel, is introduced into a moving medium which flows substantially against the direction of the force of gravity and which does not perceptibly dissolve in the lyosol.

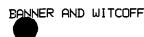
Claim 14 (New) A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the medium is air.

Claim 15 (New) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the air contains at least one further gaseous medium.

Claim 16 (New) A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is introduced dropwise into the moving air.

Second Preliminary Amendment Page 2 of 4

P.04



A method according to claim 14, characterized in that the lyosol is Claim 17 (New) sprayed into the moving air.

A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in Claim 18 (New) that the lyosol particles are screened according to size by the air stream which is directed in opposition to the force of gravity.

A method according to at least one of claim 14, characterized in Claim 19 (New) that the velocity of the air stream diminishes in the direction of flow.

A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol Claim 20 (New) particles are trapped in a layer of water.

A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol is formed Claim 21 (New) from silicic acid and mineral acid.

A method according to claim 13, characterized in that the lyosol is formed Claim 22 (New) from a sodium water-glass solution and hydrochloric acid.

Use of substantially globular lyogels, produced according to claim 13, for Claim 23 (New) the production of aerogels.

A method of producing substantially globular aerogels in which a Claim 24 (New) substantially globular lyogel, produced according to claim 13, is converted to an aerogel. --